



Lane County Friends of the Birth Center

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To:

PeaceHealth Foundation Board of Directors

Liz Dunne, President and CEO

Richard DeCarlo, EVP and COO

Mary Kingston, Chief Executive, PeaceHealth Oregon

Todd Salnas, COO, PeaceHealth Oregon

Mike Metcalf, Chief Executive, PeaceHealth Medical Group

Dr. Scott Foster, MPH, Chief Medical Executive, PeaceHealth Medical Group

July 9, 2019

Re: Public letter regarding the PeaceHealth Nurse Midwifery Birth Center

Dear PeaceHealth Leadership:

We are donors to the PeaceHealth Nurse Midwifery Birth Center and we are writing to ask you for our money back.

PeaceHealth's Nurse Midwifery Birth Center has been serving our community since the late 1970s. Nine years ago, we donated to help create a new home for the Nurse Midwifery Birth Center, adjacent to the RiverBend hospital location. This site is a crucial piece of the birth center model of care.

At that time, PeaceHealth made a commitment to us as donors, as well as to the broader community. It was a commitment based deeply in PeaceHealth mission and values. We believed we were investing in a long-term commitment to a sustainable care model by contributing building funds through the Sacred Heart Medical Foundation.

The Nurse Midwifery Birth Center is the only maternity care practice in town that attends births both in the hospital and in an accredited, free-standing birth center. This provides continuity of care for families who prefer an out-of-hospital birth. The Nurse Midwifery Birth Center does not restrict the number of women on Medicaid in their care as often happens in other practices. Closing the birth center would mean less equitable access to quality care and is in direct contradiction to PeaceHealth's stated value of the just distribution of resources.

Our Nurse Midwifery Birth Center provides a model of care that offers an important corrective to the challenges related to social determinants for the health of mothers and families in our community. The

birth center contributes to significantly lower rates of preterm birth, low birth weight, and cesarean sections. All three of these have been identified as key national objectives for increasing maternal, infant and child health. Closing the birth center would significantly under serve families in our community.

This is the third attempt by PeaceHealth to close the Nurse Midwifery Birth Center. Every time the community speaks resolutely to ensure these threats are not realized. Breaking this commitment is a violation of PeaceHealth's core value of ethical and responsible stewardship.

We realize that with significant turnover recently among senior leadership roles, some may not yet understand the legacy of the commitment PeaceHealth made to us as donors and to the community. We hope you will take the time to educate yourselves. Ultimately, we need a renewed commitment from PeaceHealth, one that respects the birth center model of care, empowers birthing mothers, and supports the midwives who serve them. When this happens, the whole community benefits.

In the meantime, please return our donations to us.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned,

Adam Bell	Eden L. Cronk	Katharine Gallagher
Adam Hughes	Eleanor Vandegrift	Kathy Lynn
Angela Bradley, FNP	Emerald Williams	Keavy Cook
Annie Hoag	Eric Johnson -	Kirsten Hughes
Austin Bailey	Ginny Dunphy	Linda D. Frison, MD
Bethel A Edens RN	Greg Jensen	Lisette Ewing
Brian Bradely	Helen Haberman	Lucy B. Stroock
Bryan Weaver	Inger Fox-Huston	Mary Carpenter, CNM
Charles Heritage	Jacqueline Weaver	Matt Huston
Christine Heritage	James Stephen Edens ASCP	Max Gimbel
Cynthia Hunter, CNM	Jena Price	Michele Peters-Carr, CNM
David Wacks	Jennifer Di Francesco, FNP	Mr. Victor Guillemin
Debbie Jensen BSM, BSN, M.Ed., IBCLC	Jett Nilprabhassom	Mrs. Victor Guillemin
Deborah Fuerth, MD	Jimmy Unger, MD	Ms. Vicki Harkovitch
Dennis Carr	John Dunphy	Rand Kaplan
Desiree Nelson	John W. Larson, DMD	Renee Bailey
Deven Holmgren	Joshua Skov	Robert Voelker-Morris
Diane Sage	Joy Hatch	Ryan Turner
Dr. Catherine B. Kordesch	Jude Hales	Shelly Bosworth
Dr. David C. Fryefield	Judith Eisen	Sylvia Garrett
Dr. John . Holtzapple	Julie Voelker-Morris	Todd Bosworth
	Karen Guillemin	Tom Ewing

Cc: Supporters & Interested Parties via <https://lanecofbc.blogspot.com>